

# The Brethren Evangelist,

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A. D. GNAGEY, EDITOR.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1894.

## SYSTEMATIC WORK.

Systematic work always brings the best results. It never pays to do anything in a haphazard way. There is a great deal of force wasted in this world because of a lack of thorough organization and systematic arrangement. *Power*, unorganized, becomes a source of destruction. *Force* will accomplish nothing for the good of man unless it is properly directed. Niagara, with its tremendous power has turned no wheels in the interest of humanity. For ages the forces of that awful cataract have been wasted. Of late the ingenuity of man has devised a plan to chain and utilize them.

Nowhere does this principle apply more clearly than in the church of God. The church has almost unlimited resources and powers. What a tremendous moral force the church of God might be if properly organized, and all her waste energies directed in channels of usefulness. The church should pray for a closer application of that which she now *has* rather than pray for more. Let us thoroughly organize and reduce to system that which is *ours now* rather than pray for greater power, and then fold our arms. Well organized efforts, thorough, systematic, hand to hand to work *wins* in worldly organizations, and the church is not exempt from this law of success. Organize your forces for Christ, do not waste them beating the winds or chasing a shadow.

As an example of thorough, well organized efforts, we refer the reader to the labors of the indefatigable, never-giver up, I. D. Bowman, in Philadelphia. Read his "Spiritual Jottings" on page 12. He has every member in his church *doing service for Christ*.

Here is a list of the topics on which he is now discoursing in the city in his revival effort, for the success of which he asks a prayer from every child of God. Such *vim* must win.

Sunday, October 28th, 10:30 A. M. Recipe for a Revival.

Sunday, October 28th, 7:45 P. M. Is there a God? Considered independent of the Bible.

Monday, October 29th, 8 P. M. Is the Bible the book of God? Considered independent of the Bible.

Tuesday, October 30th, 8 P. M. Is the Bible the book of God? Considered from the stand-point of Prophecy.

Wednesday, October 31st, 8 P. M. Present and Future Redemption, Rewards and Punishments. Considered from the stand-point of nature and revelation.

Thursday, Nov. 1st, 8 P. M. How is it that a Christian cannot, and yet does sin at the same time? A very important and practical discourse.

Friday, November 2d, 8 P. M. The Sin against the Holy Ghost.

Sunday, November 4th, 10:30 A. M. Dry Bones. Prophetic discourse.

Sunday, November 4th, 7:45 A. M. A kind Father soliciting the love of a wayward son.

Doctrinal and Prophetic subjects for next week will be published later.

All Christians are heartily invited to come and give their influence in favor of the whole Gospel, and nothing but the Gospel, as the power of God to save the soul. We guarantee absolute gospel liberty.

Sinners of all grades and classes are especially invited to come and be made free.

ISAAC D. BOWMAN, Pastor.

## THE DEMANDS OF THE PRESENT.

What are the demands of the times in which we live? What does the *world* demand of the church, and what has it a *right* to demand? These are vital questions and merit the serious consideration of the Christian church. Is the work of the church the same now as it was 1800 years ago? Are her duties the same? Perhaps at first thought, nine-tenths of all the readers of the EVANGELIST, would say *yes*, to the above questions. But is it really so? There is a sense in which the work of the church is the same now as it was in the days of the apostles. Her duty *was* and *is* the salvation of souls; it always will be, until the church militant becomes the church triumphant.

The Lord Jesus laid down great and fundamental principles which in their very nature are immutable. The Savior *taught* and the apostles *preached* faith, repentance, baptism, that is, *immersion*, as the conditions of

pardon and church membership; they taught and preached foot-washing and the Lord's Supper, as means of grace looking toward the higher culture and development of the soul. They preached purity of heart and life as the conditions of seeing God. These demands are yet the same. They ever will be. No age, however far advanced in intelligence and civilization, can outgrow these demands of the Gospel.

But while this is true, it is equally true, that there have been great changes in the social world. The conditions of society are not now what they were 1800 years ago, not even what they were 100 years ago. The social world has undergone great changes and the church cannot afford to disregard these changes.

While on the one hand we recognize the inexorability of the great doctrines of the church we are forced on the other hand to face the ever shifting and changing conditions of human society. New problems present themselves for solution. The *social* problem in *itself* is not new, but in its present *form* it is new and calls for a solution. *Sociology* is becoming one of the great studies of the times. There is a call "for a re-statement of the fundamental principles of society" and it becomes the duty of thinking men and women, the duty of the church, to study the social problem in all its various aspects, for we believe that in the end, Christianity must offer a solution for this much agitated question. The Gospel of Jesus Christ alone can solve the problem. Christianity cannot escape the question, nor should it *want* to. The very nature, the principles, the design and purpose of Christianity, force it into the arena where it is compelled to fight for its claims. And it will win. When all other plans and schemes for the solution of the social problem have exhausted their resources, Christianity will come to the rescue and offer the only reasonable and logical solution.

On November 14th and 15th we hope to be present at the Summer School of Christian Sociology, at Oberlin, O., where we expect to hear such eminent men as Dr. Washington Gladden, and the Rev. Dr. J. H. W. Stuckenberg, of Berlin, Germany, who has made Sociology the study of his life. We shall have more to say along this line after our return.